पूर्व सांसदों को रेलवे के पास जारी किया जाना

2194. **श्री राम चन्द्र विकल :** क्या **संसदीय कार्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या यह सच है कि सरकार पूर्व सांसदों को रेल-पास जारी करने के लिये प्रस्ताव पर विचार करती रही है परन्तु अभी तक इस सम्बन्ध में कोई प्रगति नहीं हुई है; यदि हां, तो निर्णय लिये जाने में विलम्ब के क्या कारण हैं ?

संसदीय कार्य मंत्री तथा खाद्य और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री (श्री एच० के० एल० भगत) : भूतपूर्व संसद-सदस्यों को रेल यात्रा सुविधा प्रदान करने का प्रश्न कुछ समय से सरकार के विचाराधीन है । तथापि, सरकार ने इस मामले में अभी तक कोई निर्णय नहीं लिया है।

Pahariya Tribals in Santhal Parganas

2195. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of Pahariya Tribals living in the hills of Santhal Praganas in Bihar is fast dwindling;

(b) if so, by what percentage the population of Pahariya Tribals has become reduced since 1961 Census and how does it compare with the percentage of reduction in the population of other tribes in the tribal areas in various parts of the country;

(c) what are the major reasons for this decline; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to save the Pahariya Tribals and other tribes from extinction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Gajendragadkar Committee Report

2196. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the Report of the Gajendragadkar Committee constituted to probe into the working of the ICAR system for frustration among Scientists leading them to commit suicide;

(b) what are the contents of the recommendations;

(c) which one of them have been implemented by Government, which were modified and implemented and the ones which have been rejected; and

(d) what are the reactions of the Scientists to the report and its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir. The recommendations contained in the Gajendragadkar Committee Report were examined in depth by the Government and implemented with some modifications as were considered necessary in the interest of the Scientific Research.

(b) to (d) A note giving the details of the information is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [*See* Appendix CXLIV, Annexure No. 99].

Losses of Foodgrains

2197. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what were the State-wise losses of foodgrains during each of the last

three years (for which figures are available for the value of losses) due to pests, diseases and rodents, etc.;

(b) how much of this loss was shared by the farmers, Government and the insurance companies in each State; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to improve the situation in this regard and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) There is no mechanism to account for the loss of foodgrains in value due to pests, diseases and rodents etc., as also to assess the share of this loss by farmers, Government and insurance agencies in the country.

(c) The public agencies have been able to minimise the losses by adopting scientific methods of storage practices covering improved godowns, prophylactic and curative treatments of the stored produce, use of dunnage, periodical inspection, aeration etc.

The Department of Food have launched a country-wide Save Grain Campaign for educating, motivating and pursuading the farmers to adopt scientific storage practices. It has been noticed that losses are significantly lower, wherever farmers adopt the recommended practices.

Bisra Stone Mines at Birmitrapur, Orissa

2198. SHRI GANESHWAR KUSUM: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the plight of the workers of M/s. Bisra lime stone mines Birmitrapur in Orissa;

(b) if so, what are the steps taken to take over the mines and save the workers from possible retrenchment; and

(c) what are the details of the steps taken to remove the financial crisis of that lime stone mines?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government are exploring the possibilities of stepping up sales from the mines in order to enable production to be increased to improve the financial viability of the Company. No retrenchment is contemplated.

Soil conservation measures in Orissa

2199. SHRI GANESHWAR KUSUM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether soil conservation measures have been taken up by Government in the inter-State river valley areas of Orissa;

(b) if so, what are the details of the soil conservation measures during the last three years; and

(c) how much amount has been spent on the soil conservation measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects (RVP)" is being implemented in inter-State River Valley areas of Hirakud, Machkund/Sileru and Rangali-Mandira catchments in Orissa.

(b) and (c) Soil conservation measures implemented under this scheme consist of contour/graded bunding, levelling/terracing, gully control works, planting of utility trees on arable lands, besides afforestation and pasture development undertaken on